श्री सभापति: आप सारे मेंबर्स का टाइम ले रहे हैं ...(व्यवधान)...

प्रो॰ राम देव भंडारी: आपने अगला प्रश्न कॉल किया है ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री सभापति: इनका रिकॉर्ड नहीं हो रहा है ...(व्यवधान)...

Restrictions on outsourcing

*183. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:†
SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether USA and more States have planned to curb outsourcing to India;

(b) whether India has conveyed to USA that outsourcing law could hit ties between the two countries;

(c) whether key economic advisers to U.S. President have suggested that outsourcing to India and other countries in which they have a comparative advantage is a win-win situation for both exporters and importers;

(d) if so, whether Government have considered this view of U.S.A.;

(e) whether other countries including Japan and France have also opposed the US move; and

(f) if so, to what extent this law has become applicable to India?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) Several Bills had been introduced in the United States Congress and in some State Legislatures in the US to curb oursourcing and a few of these have been converted into legislation.

(b) India's concerns regarding the above have been taken up from time to time during various official and other interactions with the USA.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir.

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†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy.

(e) The Government is not aware if other countries, including Japan and France, have also opposed these proposals.

(f) The legislation places restrictions on outsourcing of US Government contracts only, which constitute about 2% of our BPO operations.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Mr. Chairman, Sir, in my first supplementary question, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that what made the United States of America to ban outsourcing of services to India. What action is the Government of India taking and what is the reaction of our country? Sir, the hon. Minister has given a reply that our officers have been trying their best to convince USA. I would like to know what is the current state of affairs and how this move of the US Government is going to affect the relations between India and USA. When are we going to convince USA not to ban outsourcing of services?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, we have expressed our concerns during the visit of various senior-level officials. The US Trade Representative was here; this was brought to his notice. Mr. Collin Powell was here; it was brought to his notice. And, we have highlighted that this loss, this perceived loss, which the United States thinks in terms of jobs, is actually not so, for every dollar outsourced by the United States, 1.14 dollars is the gain to the US economy. So, there are mathematical and logical figures to establish this and this has been adequately conveyed to the United States.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, in the reply of the hon. Minister it has been stated that the Government is not aware about other countries'—including Japan and France—objection to this move of the United States to ban the outsourcing of services. But, here, I would like to know that at least in the Government, for that reason, *The Economic Times* of 20th June, 2004, in which Mr. Babaria of Germany has criticised the United States for initiating this move to ban the outsourcing Government contracts. I would like to know how many countries have so far criticised United States' move and whether the Government of India is in touch with these countries. Here, even though the Minister says we are not aware of other countries' reaction, we must make an effort. When other countries are objecting to the move of the USA, why not we also make an effort to persuade them to join us in convincing the United States that they do not ban this outsourcing of services to India and other countries?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, generally the approach is for a free world trade, and, other countries would naturally express their opposition to anything which bans, or, which tries to create any roadblock in free trade. This is in the services sector. But, in specific terms of any country taking up on behalf of India, it has not been brought to our notice. In general terms, yes, many countries would oppose it.

With regard to the point raised by the hon. Member that we should try for ensuring this, I would like to inform the Member, through you, Sir, that the total ban by the United States, or, so called ban which is there, impacts only two per cent of the total BPO business with the United States. There is only one federal legislation which has gone through, and, that restricts the outsourcing where there is Government funding in the US Government-sector contracts, and, that amounts to only two per cent of the total BPO business with the United States.

श्री मूल चन्द मीणा: सभापति महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूं कि अमेरिका द्वारा आउटसोर्सिंग पर प्रतिबंध के दृष्टिकोण पर भारत सरकार ने क्या विचार किया है, कब-कब विचार किया है और उस पर क्या-क्या कार्यवाही भारत सरकार की ओर से की गयी है?

श्री कमल नाथ: सभापति महोदय, जो भारत का इस क्षेत्र में व्यापार है, 70 प्रतिशत यूनाइटेड स्टेट्स के साथ है। बहुत बड़ी संख्या भारत की यूनाइटेड स्टेट्स के साथ है। यूनाइटेड स्टेट्स में जो प्रेज़ीडेंशियल ऐडवाइज़र है, जो उनकी फैडरल ट्रेज़री के हैं, उन्होंने भी अपनी आपत्ति व्यक्त की है कि इस प्रकार की रोक-रुकावट जो भारत और यूएसए के बीच में होगी, वह सही नहीं होगी। इतने सारे बिल, लगभग 60 बिल यूनाइटेड स्टेट्स की कांग्रेस में पेश किए गए हैं जिनमें से खाली एक ही लॉ में कनवर्ट हुआ है और वह केवल गवर्नमेंट कॉन्ट्रेक्ट्स के लिए सीमित है। हमें विश्वास है कि जो यूनाइटेड स्टेट्स के राष्ट्रपति हैं, जो उनके ऐडवाइज़र हैं, जो उनके फेडरल ट्रेज़री के अध्यक्ष हैं, उन्होंने भी इसमें जो आपत्ति व्यक्त की है, यूनाइटेड स्टेट्स कांग्रेस उस पर पूरा विचार करेगा और ऐसे कदम नहीं उठाएगा जिससे इसमें कोई अड़चन आए।

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Sir, while looking for this BPO operations, I would like to know whether the Government is ensuring that the labour laws of the land *vis-a-vis* working hours hazards involving in such operations, which are being carried out in India, are adhered to. Similarly, I have a question regarding emoluments. Now, more or less, the international practice is Equal Work, Equal Pay. Now, what type of ratio of emoluments are the Indians getting through this outsourcing *vis-a-vis* the

ones, who are outsourcing the job? Sir, my first question is regarding labour laws, especially with regard to the working hours hazards, as to whether they are being followed as per the labour laws of the land. Secondly, regarding the emoluments, are you going to fix anything so that it does not become ten per cent of the salary some one gets and that it does not become our credit? I would also like to ask whether some cheap outsourcing is also being done or not, or, some bargaining can be done on that score also.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, India has become very competitive on this, not because of discounting on its wages, but because of the fact that it is the current price level or the salary level. As far as the question of labour laws is concerned, most of these companies, which are outsourcing in India, are ensuring compliance, because there is a United States law for this. The United States themselves wants that when these companies are entering into direct agreements with countries outside United States, those companies should be compliant with various compliances which are listed out. So, United States themselves are conscious of this.

Sir, as far as Indian labour laws are concerned, there have been no complaints on this, and, I would like to assure the hon. Member that there is no question of discounting wages in any respect on this. We get them because the rates in the United States are very high. We all know this. So, there is a big disparity between the U.S. wages and the Indian wages. And, that is why India has this edge. In addition to that, India's IT abilities give India that edge.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, India is becoming a big...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, India is a big centre of knowledge economy and the success of BPO is a by-product of that. But, the hon. Minister just stated that reactions are coming about and only one law has been passed which confines the Government contract to two per cent. But, a trend has begun which is quite alarming. My question to the hon. Minister is this. In the on-going World Trade negotiations, in the service sector, what does, and, in what manner, the Government propose to raise the matter, so that our concerns are suitably addressed? And, does the Government propose to take a very tough stand *vis-a-vis* the American reaction in terms of trade in the service sector?

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Sir, it is true that a trend has started. As I said, there are 60 Bills and only one has been converted, whereas in the State Legislature, there are 297 Bills in the various States, out of which 11 have been converted. Those 11 have not caused any kind of restraint.

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: It is a very serious matter, Mr. Minister.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: I am agreeing with you. I am only agreeing with you. So, as I have said, 11 Bills have been converted, but these 11, which have been converted, are not prohibitive of outsourcing. But, it is a matter of concern. Undoubtedly, it is a serious matter of concern. Whereas WTO talks are concerned, in the framework agreement which is coming up towards the end of this month, 'Mode IV relating to services' is being pushed very strongly by India. And, I personally, in the negotiations, had brought this up, I would like to assure the hon. Member. We will ensure that no restrictive measures—in fact, there are no proposals for restrictive measures—even no indirect restrictive measures creep in.

श्री रवि शंकर प्रसाद: सर, यह बहुत महत्वपूर्ण विषय है, इस पर आधे घंटे का डिसकशन होना चाहिए।

श्री सभापति: ठीक है, आप लिखकर लाइए। श्री संजय निरुपम, बोलिए।

श्री संजय निरुपम: आदरणीय सभापति जी, मेरा सवाल बहुत जटिल नहीं है। पिछले कुछ वर्षों में आउटसोर्सिंग का बिजनेस बढ़ा है, इसलिए मुझे सिर्फ इतना ही जानना है कि ओवरऑल बी॰पी॰ओ॰ बिजनेस का क्वांटम कितना है? यह कितना बड़ा बिजनेस है? हमारे देश में कितनी कंपनियां आउटसोर्सिंग में इनवॉल्व हैं, बेसिकली यू॰एस॰ कंपनीज़ के साथ? एम्प्लॉयमेंट जेनरेशन भी बहुत अच्छे ढ़ग से हो रहा है बी॰पी॰ओ॰ बिजनेस के ज़रिए, तो एम्प्लॉयमेंट जेनरेशन का अगर कुछ हिसाब-किताब, कुछ फिगर्स हों, कोई तैयारी हो, कुछ होमवर्क हो आपका, तो बताएं। चौथी बात, फोरेक्स के हिसाब से कितना फॉरेन एक्सचेंज इन कंपनियों के माध्यम से आ रहा है?

श्री कमल नाथ: हमारा टोटल बिजनेस जो बी॰पी॰ओ॰ का है, वह 2002 में 2.35 बिलियन डॉलर्स था और हमें उम्मीद है कि 2003-04 में यह 3.6 बिलियन डॉलर्स बढ़ेगा और लगभग 40-50 प्रतिशत हर साल बढ़ता रहेगा। इसमें अगर देखा जाए तो भारत के पास पूरे विश्व के बिजनेस का केवल 0.35 परसेंट है। तो आप देख रहे हैं कि इसमें कितना बड़ा स्कोप है। भारत का टोटल, जो विश्व में बिजनेस है, वह है 773 बिलियन डॉलर्स और जैसा मैंने कहा कि भारत के पास अब तक रहा है केवल 2.35 बिलियन डॉलर्स और 0.35 परसेंट ही, इस ग्लोबल बिजनेस का, भारत

के पास है। इसमें कितनी कंपनियां हैं, इसका जवाब मैं नहीं दे पाऊंगा क्योंकि यह आई॰टी॰ मिनिस्ट्री देगी, मैं तो केवल व्यापार के बारे में दे सकता हूं। जहां तक व्यापार के आंकड़े है, मैं आशा करता हूं कि माननीय सदस्य इससे सैटिस्फाइड रहेंगे।

आयोगों का पुनर्गठन

*184. **श्री उदय प्रताप सिंह:** क्या **सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार उनके मंत्रालय के अधीन कार्यरत विभिन्न आयोगों के पुनर्गठन पर विचार कर रही है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और किन-किन आयोगों का पुनर्गठन किया जाना है?

सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्री (श्रीमती मीरा कुमार): (क) और (ख) सामाजिक न्याय और अधिकारिता मंत्रालय के अधीन निम्नलिखित आयोग कार्य कर रहे हैं;

(क) राष्ट्रीय अनुसूचित जाति आयोग;

(ख) राष्ट्रीय अल्पसंख्यक आयोग;

(ग) राष्ट्रीय पिछड़ा वर्ग आयोग;

(घ) राष्ट्रीय सफाई कर्मचारी आयोग;

(ङ) आर्थिक रूप से पिछड़े वर्गों के लिए आयोग;

(च) डि-नोटिफाइड जनजातियों, खानाबदोश और अर्ध-खानाबदोश जनजातियों के विकासात्मक पक्षों के अध्ययनार्थ राष्ट्रीय आयोग;

(छ) राष्ट्रीय नि:शक्त व्यक्ति आयोग।

कुछ आयोग का पुनर्गठन विचाराधीन है।

Reconstitution of Commissions

†*184. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.